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Message Text

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17
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SP-02 IO-10 SAM-01

DODE-00 /054 W
---------- 071648
O R 160620Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6281
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3562

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SS, MO, SP, ICJ
SUBJECT: ALGERIAN CIJ PRESENTATION

REF: RABAT 3428

1. ICJ TODAY MEETING IN CLOSED SESSION, MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN AUTHORITATIVE REPORT ON ALGIERIAN ORAL PRESENTATION. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO DUTCH PRESS REPORTS, ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, MOHAMMED BEDJAOUI, ARGUED THAT ALGERIA HAS NO CLAIM OF SOVEREIGNTY TO SPANISH SAHARA. NOTING GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY TO ALGERIA, BEDJAOUI STATED THAT ALGERIA IS NOT MAKING A CLAIM OF SOVEREIGNTY AT ALL, DESPITE THE ETHNIC TIES WITH THE POPULATION. HIS COUNTRY ONLY WANTED TO CONTTRIBUTE TO COURT PROCEEDINGS WHICH WOULD UNTWIST THE FATE OF THE SAHARA REGION. WE WILL POUCH VERBATIM TEXT OF STATEMENT AS SOON AS IT AVAILABLE FROM COURT.

2. ICJ PROCEEDINGS ON SHARA QUESTION NOT ATTRACTING ATTENTION HERE. DUTCH NEWSPAPERS HAVE NOT BOTHERED COVER HEARINGS THUS FAR, ALTHOUGH DUTCH NEWS AGENCY FILES AN OCCASIONAL STORY ON LONG AND DRAWN OUT PRESENTATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE JUNE 25. SPANISH ARGUMENTS WHICH
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SOME OBSERVERS THINK MAY LAST FOR A WEEK OR MORE HAVE NOT YET

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BEGUN.

3. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT COURT IS FOCUSING, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, ON ISSUES PUT TO IT BY UNGA. THESE RELATE TO STATUS OF SAHARA AT THE TIME OF COLONIZATION BY SPAIN. CURRENT DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IS SOMETHING OF WHICH MANY JUDGES ARE PROBABLY UNAWARE, THOUGH ARGUMENTS OF THE VARIOUS PARTIES AS TO THE LEGAL ISSUEF ARE VERY LIKELQ DESIGNED TO HELP BRING ABOUT EVENTUAL COURT ADVISORY OPINION WHICH PARTIES WOULD HOPE TO DRAW ON TO BUTTRESS THEIR RESPECTIVE POLITICAL POSITIONS.
TANGUY

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